

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6278

INFO USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11020

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD/BOWIE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAIR, UR, US, BTIO

SUBJECT: REPORTED USSR INTEREST IN US WIDE-BODIED JETS

REF: USDOC 11244

1. ROBERTSON'S STORY SOUNDS IMPROBABLY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AEROFLOT PREFERS BOEING 747, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT SOVIETS PLAN TO BUY FOREIGN WIDE-BODIES OR THAT AEROFLOT'S CHOICE WOULD BE GOVERNING IF PURCHASE WERE MADE.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH BOEING, MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS AND LOCKHEED FOR PACKAGE OF PLANES AND WIDE-BODY PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY, SOVIETS HAVE MOVED AHEAD ON IL-86 DEVELOPMENT WITH MUCH FANFARE. TO BUY AMERICAN PLANES NOW WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF FACE WITHOUT COMPENSATING GAIN OF PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY. THERE IS NO OVERWHELMING REASON, MOREOVER, WHY AEROFLOT WOULD HAVE TO FLY WIDE-BODIES AT OLYMPIC TIME IF IL-86 IS NOT READY, AND USE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT WOULD ONLY UNDERSCORE SOVIET FAILURE.

3. SOVIETS APPARENTLY REMAIN INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN WESTERN HELP ON IL-86 DEVELOPMENT. MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY OFFICIALS TOLD REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. AVIATION ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURER LAST WEEK THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME OFFERS OF COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF PLANE'S AIRFRAME. FIVE MONTHS AGO GENERAL ELECTRIC RECEIVED KAMA PURCHASING COMMISSION REQUEST FOR QUOTE ON TEN ENGINES FOR IL-86 AND RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FOR

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JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NECESSARY FOR MARRIAGE OF ENGINE TO

AIRFRAME. MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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